REMARKS

This application contains claims 1-37. Claims 2, 3, 20 and 21 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 4-7, 9, 19, 23, 24, 35 and 36 are hereby amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10-16, 18-20, 22-25 and 28-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lopresti et al. (U.S. Patent 5,625,721) in view of Motoiwa (U.S. Patent 6,343,149). Independent claims 1, 19 and 35 have been amended in order to clarify the distinction of the present invention over the cited references. Amended claim 1 includes the limitations of original claims 2 and 3, now canceled, while amended claims 19 and 35 include the limitations of original claims 20 and 21, which have likewise been canceled. Claims 4-7, 9, 23, 24 and 36 have been amended for correct antecedent dependence from the amended independent claims. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 12-17, 30-34 and 37.

Lopresti describes the use of a certificate, which is calculated on the text of a document to be reproduced, and which can be used to detect an error in the reproduced document (abstract). In the Background of the Invention, Lopresti describes error detection based on dictionary lookup, but explicitly teaches against this method of verifying OCR results (col. 2, lines 45-58).

Motoiwa describes a document character reading system, in which a local station and a central station both perform OCR on the same image data, using different recognition methods. A decision component decides whether the character data recognized by the local and central stations match and, if so, output the data as correct. Otherwise, a correction component is used to correct the data (abstract).

Claim 1, as amended, recites a method for document processing, in which images of document fields received over a network from a client are processed to code information contained in the fields. Directory look-up is used to check whether the information is coded correctly. The checked, coded information is returned to the client, from whom payment is received according to the number of fields that were processed. Claims 19 and 35,

respectively, recite apparatus and a computer software product that operate on similar principles.

As noted by the Examiner (paragraph 35, on page 7 of the Official Action), Lopresti and Motoiwa fail to disclose a method in which checked, coded information is returned to the client, and payment is received from the client according to the number of fields, as recited in amended claims 1, 19 and 35. Therefore, in rejecting claims 3, 17 and 21, the Examiner relied on Walker et al. (U.S. Patent 6,113,493). Walker describes a method for generating and executing insurance policies for gambling losses. Walker describes an insurance database (Fig. 4), which includes a field listing a premium amount for each insured player. A network server maintains the database (Fig. 1 and col. 3, lines 31-54), and receives the premium from the player, presumably in the amount listed in the corresponding database field (col. 7, lines 27-31, cited by the Examiner).

In other words, Walker's server evidently receives payment from each player according to a number recorded for that specific player in a corresponding field in a database, which is maintained internally by the server. Claims 1, 19 and 35, however, recite that payment is received from the client according to the number of the fields whose images are processed for a client, not simply according to a number in a field, as described by Walker. Therefore, claims 1, 19 and 35 are believed to be patentable over the cited art. In view of the patentability of these independent claims, dependent claims 4-11, 22-29 and 36 are believed to be patentable, as well.

Claim 12 recites a method for processing forms including data in a predefined domain, using a directory that is defined for the domain by selecting data specific to the domain from one or more general databases. Claims 30 and 37, respectively, recite apparatus and a computer software product that operate on similar principles.

With regard claim 12, the Examiner stated simply that the claimed method is analogous to the method of claim 1, and rejected claim 12 under similar rationale. Claim 1, however, does not include the step of "defining a directory... by selecting data specific to the domain...," as recited in claim 12. With regard to claim 4, the Examiner maintains that it would have been obvious to perform this step because "it was notoriously well known... that checking OCR results requires selecting a dictionary that corresponds with the results to be checked (i.e., appropriate language, etc.) in order to obtain maximum accuracy."

Applicant does not dispute the Examiner's assertion that OCR results should be checked against a dictionary in the appropriate language, but this is not the limitation stated in claims 12, 30 and 37. Dictionaries are prepared *ab initio* for a specific language (English, French, etc.) In specifying a dictionary to use in checking OCR data, there is no need to select domain-specific data from a general database, as required by these claims, because separate dictionaries are normally maintained for different languages.

In fact, Lopresti shows that there is a long-felt need to solve the problem addressed by the invention of claims 12, 30 and 37: Lopresti points out (col. 2, lines 29-48) the high cost and poor efficiency of methods of dictionary-based error detection known in the art, without suggesting how these methods might be improved. This problem is alleviated by selecting data for a domain-specific directory, as recited in claims 12, 30 and 37. Selection of domain-specific data from a general database enhances the reliability and speed of checking coded information (see page 3, lines 24-28, in the specification), in a manner that is not suggested by the prior art.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12, 30 and 37 are patentable over the cited art. In view of the patentability of these independent claims, depend claims 13-18 and 31-34 are believed to be patentable, as well.

Claims 3, 8, 9, 17, 21, 26 and 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Lopresti in view of Motoiwa and further in view of Walker (mentioned above), Bradford (U.S. Patent 5,805,747) or Medina (U.S. Patent 5,889,897). Claims 3 and 21 have been canceled. As noted above, Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 17, by virtue both of its dependence from claim 13 and for the reasons stated above with regard to amended claim 1. In view of the patentability of amended claims 1 and 19, claims 8, 9, 26 and 27, which depend from these independent claims, are believed to be patentable, as well.
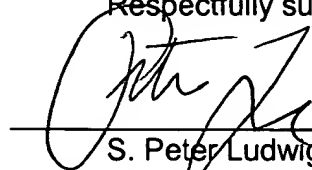
Applicants have studied the additional references made of record by the Examiner, and believe the claims currently pending in the present patent application to be patentable over these additional references, whether the references are taken individually or in any combination.

Applicants believe the amendments and remarks presented hereinabove to be fully responsive to all of the grounds of rejection raised by the Examiner. In view of these

amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims in the present application are in order for allowance. Notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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S. Peter Ludwig
Reg. No. 25,351
Attorney for Applicants

DARBY & DARBY, P.C.
805 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10022
212-527-7700